FARE (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) The current estimates of prevalance of filariasis in the country is as under :

Population residing in known endemic areas	—About 360 mil.
Number of persons with circulating micro-filaria in the blood	—About 25 mil.
Number of persons with filaria disease manifestations	—About 19 mil.

(b) No surgical procedure is available so far to treat the irreversible swellings in limbs due to filariasis, However, the Hydrocoele due to filariasis is being seated surgically in the hospitals as and when patients report there.

(c) Due priority has been accorded to control filariasis through National Filaria Control Programme which is under operation in the country since 1955.

Demands received from CGHS Pharmacists Association of INDIA

3093. SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any demand has been received recently by Government/ C.G.H.S. from C.G.H.S. Pharmacists' Association of India, Delhi for creation of posts of (i) Senior/Head Pharmacists in each system of Medicine in each Dispensary in Delhi and outside Delhi; (ii) Chief Pharmacist in all the Medical Store Depots and sub-Depots and (iii) Pharmacists-in-Chief for Medical Store Depot:

(b) if so, when the demand was received first and action so far taken in this regard by Government/ C.G.H.S.; and

(c) by when these posts are likely to be created in C.G.H.S.?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. However, in pursuance of the recommendations of 4th Pay Commission, a proposal for up-gradation of 223 posts of Pharmacists as Head Pharmacist in the Scale of Rs. 1640-2900 is under consideration.It is not possible to give exact date by which these posts will be upgraded as it requires Consultation with different Ministries/ Departments.

Constitution of Committee for C.G.H.S. Pharmacists

3094. SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any committee was constituted by Government to look into the grievances of CGHS Pharmacists ; if so, when the committee was constituted ; and what was its composition ;

(b) whether the committee has submitted its report to Government' if so, when and the main recommendations of the Committee ;

(c) the details of demands which have been implemented and those which are pending for implementation with the Central Government Health Scheme/Government ; and

(d) by when the pending demands/ recommendations are likely to be implemented by Government/ CGHS?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAM NIWAS

MIRDHA) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, a Cadre Review Committee for carrying out the Cadre reviews of Group 'B' 'C' and 'D' employees including Pharmacists working in the C.G.H.S. has been constituted. Action on the recommendations of the Committee is in progress. It is not possible to give exact date by which the recommendations are likely to be implemented as it required consultation with different Ministries/Departments.

Strike notice served by C.G.H.S. Pharmacists Association

3095. SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the C.G.H.S. Pharmacists' Association of India staged a Dharna on 21st February, 1989 at Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to meet their outstanding demands?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Their demands are under consideration in consultation with concerned Ministries/Departments.

Racket in sale of Human Organs

3096. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the racket in the sale of human Organs throughout the country and if so, the details thereof ; and

(b) what is the estimated turnover in this sale, annually and steps Government have taken/proposed to take in the matter to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b) Government have come across reports alleging trading in live human organs in the country. However no definite information is available about the extent of this trading and the institutions or individuals involved in such operations. With a view to curtailing the trading in human organs, Government is actively considering the enactment of a legislation on organ Transplantation.

Agreement between UNICEF-HTA for Health Education programmes in India

3097. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that UNICEF has entered in a contract with the Hindustan Thomson Associates, a London based advertising giant for Health Education Programmes in India and if so, the details thereof?

(b) whether Government are aware that HTA is one of the main promotor of Cigarettes and other products mainly produced by giant MNC's ; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) According to information made available to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare by office of UNICEF for South Asia region, UNICEF have